REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of the subject application are respectfully solicited.

Claims 1 through 3 and 5 through 60 are pending, with Claims 1, 5, 10, 18, 23, 28, 36, 44, and 59 being independent. Claims 5 through 50 and 52 through 58 were withdrawn from consideration. Claim 1 has been amended. Claims 59 and 60 have been added.

Claims 1 through 4 and 51 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, 1st paragraph, on the grounds that (1) written description of "an object image" is lacking and (2) it is not clear if (a) the magnitude of the maximum imaging magnification is greater than or equal to 0.5 or (b) the imaging lens system is forming an erect image with a maximum imaging magnification greater than or equal to 0.5. All rejections are respectfully traversed, and are submitted to have been obviated by the amendment of the claims in a manner earnestly believed to avoid the grounds of rejection, viz, "object image" been changed to --object--, and β has been changed to $|\beta|$.

Claims 1, 4, and 51 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 over U.S. Patent No. 4,437,734 (Iizuka) in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,898,525 (Suzuki). Claim 3 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 over Iizuka and Suzuki in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,909,322 (Bietry). All rejections are respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 recites, inter alia, $|\Delta S/f| > 1.0$, where ΔS is a maximum moving distance of the whole or part of the imaging lens system during focusing from an object at infinity to an object at a near distance, and f is a focal length of the entire imaging lens system.

The Official Action states that Iizuka inherently satisfies this feature. Applicant respectfully traverses this statement. Applicant respectfully submits that (1) the lens system of Iizuka is comprised of three lens groups G1-G3, and the movable group is G2, as shown in Figs.

3, 7, and 11; (2) as a result, ΔS, a maximum moving distance of the whole or part of the image lens system, is in conformity with a maximum movable amount of G2; (3) a movable amount of G2 is equal to a moved amount of a lens surface d5; (4) the maximum movable amount of the lens surface d5 can be obtained from Iizuka's tables: for example, in Example 1, the lens surface d5 moves from the position 0.925 to the position 31.167, and therefore the maximum movable amount is 30.242; and (5) the following table shows the calculations for the three examples of Iizuka:

TABLE

Iizuka example	ΔS	f	|ΔS/f|
1	30.242	121.168	0.24959
2	50.000	162.0	0.3086
3	29.432	106.25	0.2770

Applicant respectfully submits that there has been no showing of any indication of motivation in the cited documents that would lead the artisan to attempt to modify Iizuka to remedy the above deficiency, let alone to arrive at Applicant's claimed invention.

Claim 59 recites, inter alia, a +, +, -, stop, -, +, + arrangement, wherein an optical surface of an optical element of the aforementioned six optical elements is a diffractive surface, and wherein $|\beta| \geq 0.5$.

However, Applicant respectfully submits that there has been no showing of any indication of motivation in the cited documents that would lead one having ordinary skill in the art to arrive at the above-discussed combination of claimed features as recited, inter alia, in Claim 59.

The dependent claims are also submitted to be patentable because they set forth additional aspects of the present invention and are dependent from independent claims discussed above. Therefore, separate and individual consideration of each dependent claim is respectfully requested.

Applicant submits that this application is in condition for allowance, and a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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